taken place. During the year 1998 (upto 31.5.98) 288 civilians were killed by the militants in Jammu & Kashmir which also includes the 26 persons killed in the night of April 17/18, 1998 at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Udhampur district. The Central Security forces are made available to the State Government to assist them to maintain public order and to tackle the militancy. The levels of deployment are decided by the State Government depending on the security requirements and the availability of forces.

(c) Close vigil is being kept by the Security Forces along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. Intensive anti-militant operations are being undertaken. The Security Forces/State Police have been redeployed at the strategic places to instil the confidence of the people in the vulnerable areas.

Compensation to victims of Udhampur Killings

1593. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of recent Udhampur Killings of innocent persons by militants

(b) the details of compensation paid to the dependents of victims and the details of militants nabbed, so far;

(c) the number of civilian casualties that took place in Jammu and Kashmir during the last four months, month-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to allay the fear among the innocent residents of the State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) A group of armed militants killed 26 persons in the night of April 17/18, 1998 at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Udhampur district.

(b) An amount of Rs. 26 lakhs has been sanctioned as exgratia relief in favour of next of kin of 26 persons killed @ Rs. 1 lakh each.

As per the information made available by the State Government, during the current year (upto 31.5.98) 399 persons were apprehended for militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

(c) the details of month-wise civilian casualties are as below:

Month	Number
February, 1998	69
March'98	49
April'98	65
May'98	40
Total:	**223**

(d) Round the clock vigil is maintained on the border and indepth areas. Additional Naka Parties and intensive cordon and search operations have been undertaken to flush out militants and curb their activities. The Security Forces/ State Police have been redeployed at strategic places to instil the confidence of the people.

Firing by PAK-Troops at Poonch Border

1594 SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether continued opening of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops at Poonch border of Jammu region has been reported;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the number of civilians/military personnel killed and injured;

(c) whether Government propose to construct high border wall with live electric current thereupon along the Indian frontiers of check the entry of militants; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI):(a) and (b) Exchange of small arms fire including occasional firing of mortors and rockets along the line of control in